The

COVENANT

of the

South Family,

In the United Society,

(Commonly called Shakers,)

in

Enfield.

1827.

TANGWOOD

Introduction.

To all people to whom these presents shall come;

Know Ye,

That whereas we, the subscribers, of the Town of Enfield, in the County of Hartford, and State of Connecticut, having, by the grace of God, received faith in the testimony of Christ's Second Appearing, according to the Principles and Practice of the United Society, (commonly called Shakers,) in said Enfield, and having become members of the Society aforesaid; and feeling a desire to unite together in the order and form of a Family and religious Fraternity in gospel relation, according to the light and revelation of God, made known to us in the gospel;- and, also, having not only a lawful right to enter into a religious compact; but feeling confirmed and established in our faith, that the afore-

said order is acceptable to God, and in accordance with the spirit of Christ; inasmuch as it enables us to be more useful to ourselves and each other in all things pertaining to our travel in the gospel,— to receive, and more perfectly to improve the manifold gifts of God, both spiritual and temporal; for the mutual protection, support, comfort and happiness of each other, as brethren and sisters in the gospel, than any other situation in our knowledge.

Therefore, for the causes and purposes above mentioned, and for the better securing of our mutual rights and temporal interest from the attacks of unlawful aggression, we have mutually, freely and voluntarily entered into covenant with each other, in manner and form following: viz.

The Covenant of the South Family, &c.

Article 1st. We covenant and agree, That we will receive and acknowledge our faithful and beloved Elders in the gospel, who have been, or may be, appointed to that office and trust by the Ministry, according to the first article of the covenant of the Church in Enfield aforesaid. And we solemnly pledge ourselves, in the presence of God and each other, that we will, as faithful brethren and sisters in Christ, conform and subject ourselves to the order, rules and regulations of the Family.

Art. 2nd. We further covenant and agree To dedicate, devote and give up ourselves and services, together with all our temporal interest to God and the family, for the upbuilding of our respective Family, and other pious

and charitable uses, to be under the care and direction of such Elders and Deacons or Trustees as have been, or hereafter may be appointed to the said offices, according to the first article of this covenant. Provided nevertheless, That those who have lawful heirs, shall not dedicate and devote such portion of their property as they shall think fit and proper to bestow on said heirs; but the use and improvement only shall be dedicated as aforesaid, until the heir or heirs shall become of lawful age.

Art. 3rd. We further covenant and agree, That it shall be the special duty of the Deacons or trustees of the Family, appointed as aforesaid, to take the immediate charge and oversight of all and singular the property, estate, and interest dedicated, devoted and given up as aforesaid, together with all that may hereafter be so devoted and given up, which property, estate and interest shall constitute the joint interest of the Family, and shall be

held as such, by the Deacons or Trustees in their official capacity. And it shall be the duty of the said Deacons or Trustees, to make all lawful defence for the protection and security of the joint interest and privileges of the Family; and, also, to appropriate, use and improve the joint interest of the Family, for the benefit of the Family, and such other pious and charitable uses as the gospel may require. Provided always, That the management and disposal of the said interest and property by the said Deacons or Trustees shall be for the benefit, and in behalf of the whole Family, to whom the said Deacons or Trustees are, and shall be held accountable, and not for any personal or private use whatever.

Art. 4th. We further covenant and agree, That the joint interest of the Family shall be held and possessed by the whole body jointly, as their natural and religious

right; that is, all and every individual of, or belonging to the Family, shall enjoy equal rights and privileges, in the use of all things pertaining to the Family, according to their several needs and circumstances, without any difference being made on account of what any one has brought in, or may hereafter bring into the Family. And furthermore, That it shall be the duty of all the members, jointly and individually, to occupy and improve their time and talents to support and maintain the aforesaid joint interest of the Family, according to their several abilities and callings, as members in joint union, so that the manifold gifts of God may be jointly improved for the mutual benefit of the whole body.

Art. 5th. We do, by this covenant, solemnly and conscientiously, jointly and individually, for ourselves, our heirs and assigns, promise and declare, in the presence of God

and eachother, and to all men, That we will never hereafter, neither directly nor indirectly, make nor require any account of any interest, property, labor, or service, which has been, or may be devoted by us, or any of us, to the purposes aforesaid; nor bring any charge of debt or damage; nor hold any demand whatever, against the Family or Society; nor against any member thereof on account of any property or services devoted or consecrated to the aforesaid sacred and charitable uses or purposes.

Art. 6th. We further covenant and agree, That every person who shall, after the date of this covenant, be admited into the Family, as a member thereof, in joint union, being of lawful age, shall previously, in the presence of at least two of the Deacons of the Family, read or hear distinctly read, to his or her full understanding, this covenant, and shall be able, freely, voluntarily and conscientiously, to agree to, and acknowledge his or her full approbation and

acceptance of the same, in all its parts: Then he or she may have full liberty to sign this covenant, and shall thence forward be entitled to all the benefits and priviledges hereunto appertaining.

And the signature or signatures thus added, shall be certified by the said Deacons in the following manner, viz. We A. B. and C. D. Deacons of the South Family at Enfield, Do certify that E. F. being of lawful age, was, on this ——— day of ——— in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ———, duly admitted as a member of the Family, in joint union, according to the conditions stipulated in the sixth article of the Family Covenant; and voluntarily signed the said covenant in our presence.

A. B. }
C. D. } Deacons.

Art. 7th. We further covenant and agree, That it shall be the duty of the Deacons or Trustees, to keep or cause to be kept in a book or books, provided for that purpose, a true copy of this covenant, together with all other records and transactions of a public nature, which may be necessary for the information

and satisfaction of all concerned; and for the security of the joint interest of the Family, committed to their charge.

In confirmation of all the aforesaid ~~statements, covenants~~, promises and articles of agreement, We have hereunto affixed our names and seals, in the presence of each other, beginning on this twenty fifth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ~~twenty-seven~~.

James Slade

William Burnham

Jonathan Perry

Samuel T Steele

Erastus Webster

Elisha Eaton

Agnes Munsell

Eunice Hereskell

Judith Emerson.

Abigail Perry

Lucy Watson

Abraham Malavory

Medad Smith

Hiram Stebbins

George Graves

Joshua Bennet

Manasseh Robbins

George Blanchard

Jedidiah Dudley

Samuel Kizar

Sally Burnham

Ruth Malavory

Mary Streeter

Hannah Dickison

Harriet Knox

Esther Sessions

Emelia Steele

Eliza Ann Mowry

Polly Cazy

Elizabeth Kellogg

Martha Pease.

Lydia Kingsbury

Mercy Brown.

Ruth Stratta.

Caroline Bradley.

Hepzibah Southwick.

Almira Burnham.

Sophia Wood.

Eunice Burnham.

Harvey Lyman

Dyer Black

Stephen White

George his mark Barney

Henry S Kellogg

Edward M. Lyman

Richard S. Lyon

Amos Fletcher

Sarah Lyman

Chloe Wardwell

Ruth Benton

Mary C Wright.

Eliza L Blanchard

Sarah Ann Benton

Abigail her X mark Bennett

Esther F Shaw

Caroline Blodgett

Daniel Le Overett.

Newcomb Dean

Mary ann White

Nancy Blanchard

Marion Patrick

Elizabeth Copley

Rhoda Strowbridge

Maria Witham

Margarett Brooks

Thomas J. Stroud

Lottie M Lumbard